

Remarks

I. Status and Nature of the Amendment

Claims 1-95 were originally presented. Claims 1-4 and 56-95 have been withdrawn as directed to non-elected inventions. Accordingly claims 5-55 are presently pending.

II. Response to Restriction Requirement

The Examiner has issued a requirement for restriction of the original claims, identifying three separate and distinct inventions:

Group	Claims	Subject Matter
I.	Claims 1-4	Drawn to a method of enhancing uptake of molecules into live cells, classified in class 435, subclasses 455 and others;
II.	Claims 5-55	Drawn to a method of assaying a cell for enzyme activity, classified in class 435, subclasses 18 and others; and
III.	Claims 56-95	Drawn to an enzyme substrate-containing reagent, classified, for example, in class 530, subclasses 353, 536, 22.1 and others.

Applicants herewith elect with traverse to prosecute the invention of **Group II** (claims 5-55).

The Examiner has also issued a request for an election of species that could be used to facilitate the examination of the claims. Specifically, in light of Applicants election of the claims of Group II, the Examiner has requested election of an enzyme as recited in claims 6-8 and 38-40, an uptake-enhancing agent as recited in claim 15, and an indicator moiety as recited in claim 47.

Applicants herewith elect as an enzyme (as recited in claims 6-8 and 38-40), the enzyme: caspase.

Applicants herewith elect as an uptake-enhancing agent (as recited in claim 15) uptake-enhancing agent: glycerol.

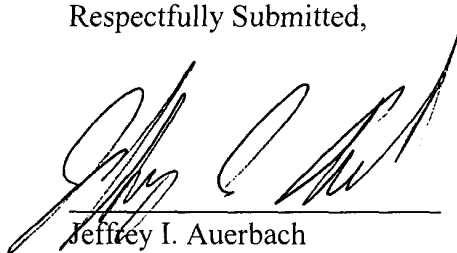
Applicants herewith elect as an indicator moiety (as recited in claim 47), the indicator moiety: rhodamine 110.

III. Concluding Remarks

Applicants respectfully submit that the present application is in condition for Examination, and earnestly solicit early notice of favorable action. The Examiner is respectfully invited to contact the undersigned with respect to any issues regarding this application.

Respectfully Submitted,

Date: 21-May-2003
Liniak, Berenato & White, LLC
6550 Rock Spring Drive, Suite 240
Bethesda, MD 20817
Tel: (301) 896-0600 / Fax: (301) 896-0607


Jeffrey I. Auerbach
Reg. No. 32,680
Attorney for Assignee